

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Academic Success Programme?

The Academic Success Programme consists of workshops and online support in academic English. It is designed to support students and staff of the University of Manchester, whether or not English is their first language.

How will I benefit from attending Academic Success Programme workshops?

'Academic language is ... no one's mother tongue' (Bourdieu and Passeron, 1995, p.8). No one begins life using academic English and its conventions vary across disciplines. This means that we all need to learn how to communicate in academic English. Our workshops focus on developing a range of academic speaking and writing skills that will equip you to succeed on your degree programme.

What is the difference between pre-sessional courses and the Academic Success Programme?

Pre-sessional courses are for international students hoping to progress onto a university programme. Successful completion usually indicates that the student's English language level has reached that required by their School. Pre-sessional courses are open to the public, are full-time and attract a weekly tuition fee. Pre-sessional students receive a course report upon successful completion of the course. You can visit our website for more information: <https://www.ucae.manchester.ac.uk/study/pre-sessional-courses/>.

The Academic Success Programme is for all students at the University of Manchester. It aims to take your Academic English beyond what you have already learned, and to support you during your main course, so that you can succeed in your assignments. Academic Success Programme workshops are free of charge to students and not open to the public. We do not formally assess you and we do not issue certificates of attendance.

Are workshops online or on-campus?

We provide a choice of on-campus workshops and online workshops. Online workshops are marked as such on the website and in the course registration area.

How do I register for the Academic Success Programme workshops?

Visit www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme to view the timetable. Find a course you are interested in and click the link to enrol via Training Catalogue. Once you have done this, you will be enrolled onto the course and receive a confirmation email which will include venue details and a link to join the Canvas space to access course materials. It may take a few days for a workshop to appear on your timetable and details of the venue may not be included. Please make a note of these details from your confirmation email.

Registration for Semester 1 courses is available from mid-September and registration for Semester 2 courses is available close to the end of Semester 1.

What do I need to do before attending a workshop?

Before your first workshop, you will need to enrol on Canvas. You will receive a link to enrol in your confirmation email. Please download the workshop handout and bring it to the workshop, either printed or on a device where you can edit documents (laptop or tablet).

For online workshops, you will be given a link to a Teams or Zoom classroom. You may need to use a version of Teams or Zoom where you have signed in with your University of Manchester email address. We do not recommend using mobile phones for online or on-campus workshops as the screens are usually too small.

What happens during a workshop?

During the workshop, you will complete a set of activities, working both individually and with peers, with input and advice from an expert tutor. You will also register your attendance via a QR code or link provided by the tutor.

What happens if the class I want is already full?

We offer several start dates for our workshops and each block of 4 workshops runs twice in semester 1 and twice in semester 2. So, if a block you would like is full, you should be able to sign up for a later start date. Please note, you can take the blocks in any order.

Where can I find timetable information?

www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme. Note that this page is updated on a regular basis as new workshop dates are added.

Do I have to pay for the Academic Success Programme?

No, the workshops are free of charge to all University of Manchester students, staff and visiting fellows.

Does it matter if I vary workshop attendance to fit in with my academic work?

(E.g. Can I attend a writing workshop on Monday one week and on Thursday the next week?)

We understand that you may have varying academic commitments throughout the term. Where possible, please enrol onto a workshop at a time which fits in with your commitments. If you are unable to attend some of the workshops, please inform the workshop tutor in your first workshop.

Should I inform you if I no longer wish to attend a class?

You can usually cancel via the Training Catalogue but if you have any difficulty doing so, please email us at academicsuccess@manchester.ac.uk with the title and code of the course you wish to cancel your place on.

Will I earn any credits / get a certificate for attending the Academic Success Programme?

No, the Academic Success Programme is not formally assessed and you will not receive credits for attending the workshops. Certificates of attendance are not issued, although we keep a record of attendance for statistical purposes and to inform school administrators/personal tutors of attendance, should they require this information.

Will registering for the Academic Success Programme workshops help me with my academic application?

We are unable to advise or assist prospective students with their academic application. Prospective students should contact admissions staff in their destination School for guidance at the application stage.

By passing these courses, will I satisfy the condition of my academic offer?

The Academic Success Programme is for students who have already met their destination School's language requirements. Unless stated otherwise by your School, attendance on these courses is voluntary: the courses are not formally assessed so they cannot be passed or failed.

I am a visiting researcher / international member of staff – can I take Academic Success Programme workshops?

Yes

Do classes continue throughout reading week?

Academic Success Programme workshops may be delivered during your reading week. Please check the dates and times at www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme.

Can you proof-read/correct my assignment for me?

Unfortunately, we do not offer a proof-reading/correction service.

Should I take one of your full-time English language courses to improve my English?

There are two reasons you should not: (1) your academic commitments will not allow you enough time to attend a full-time English language course and (2) our full-time courses are designed for pre-registration students seeking University preparation and to bring their IELTS / TOEFL score up to their destination School's minimum entry requirement, so would not be pitched at the level you require.

I would like to participate in a foreign (e.g. German, Spanish, Chinese, etc.) language course – how do I join?

Information on LEAP foreign language courses can be found at <https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/study/university-language-centre-leap-courses>.